
'S
STORY

A guide to accompany
Katie's Story: Let God's Light Shine In Me

This guide is intended to be used alongside the book *Katie's Story: Let God's Light Shine In Me*. The questions can be used for personal journaling or as discussion starters for a small group setting. Or perhaps some combination of both! My hope is that they will help you think, feel and grow as you write your own story with God.

Each set of questions goes with one of Katie's passages in the book. The page numbers are noted, and the main point of the section is highlighted to keep you in the right place in the book. Reading through the Katie/Sarah couplet and the Scriptures associated with the questions will enable them to be better understood. If you print this document, there is a little space between each question but not likely enough for you to write full answers. Having a personal journal will likely be beneficial and may encourage more reflection.

Katie loved her relationship with God. I want you to love your relationship with God also. When you do, his light will radiate through you, and people will be impacted by your life simply through your presence in theirs.

#letGodslightshineinme

page 3

Katie

Be still in the light of God's presence.

you

What is it like for you to be still? No music, no screens, no talking, no thinking about your day.

Do you do that often?

What might happen if you did?

Have you ever felt God's presence? If so, what was that like?

What were the circumstances surrounding it?

Was it a loud presence or a quiet one?

What might it feel like to have God beside you right now?

page 6

Ratie

I'm really only beginning my journey of intimacy with God.

you

What is the most exciting trip you have ever taken?

What were some of the best parts?

Were there challenging parts as well?

Where are you on your journey with God?

Would you call it an adventure?

What has been delightful about it?

What has been difficult?

What do you hope to get out of it?

What is it like to keep seeking God in the middle of a hard season?

Does your relationship with God change when the outcome of your situation shifts away from what you hoped?

page 8

Ratie

The most important role is the one you are asked to play.

you

What are the roles you play in your life? (for example: daughter/son, student, employee, sister, athlete, etc.)

Do you ever feel that your role is more or less important than someone else's?

How does your role impact the people around you?

What would change in your attitude if you believed that God gave you your position?

What would change in your actions?

In what ways can you "play your heart out?"

page 11

Ratie

God doesn't just use special people. He takes random people and uses them in extraordinary ways.

you

Read 1 Corinthians 1:27. Name one of your weaknesses or an area in which you feel foolish at times (or all the time).

How would it feel if that part of you was put on display for everyone to see?

Try to imagine a scenario in which God could use that weakness to point someone else to him.

What could that look like?

What would that feel like?

Does that possibility change the way you see your ordinariness?

page 14

Ratie

We should form deep, authentic relationships.

you

How would you describe your relationships?

Read Proverbs 27:17, Hebrews 10:23-25, Romans 1:11-12. From these verses, what characteristics does the Bible say should be part of an authentic friendship?

Which of these is something you strive for in your relationships?

Which is an area you could grow in?

Why is a friendship based on these characteristics important to have in your life?

How does it enable you to be better?

How does an authentic relationship allow you to be a part of something bigger than yourself?

page 16

Ratie

Influence others for Christ.

you

Read 2 Corinthians 3:2-3. If your life was a letter of recommendation, what would you be recommending? Or if your life was a commercial, what would people think you are advertising?

Think about your social media ... what are you influencing people toward with your posts?

People talk. What do you hope they say about you?

In 1, 5, or 10 years from now, what impression do you want to have made on others?

If today was your only opportunity, will your actions from today leave the impression that you want?

What little changes can you make toward leaving a mark that resembles Christ?

page 18

Ratie

Shut the door on people pleasing.

you

Do you feel a lot of pressure to be what other people want or expect you to be?

To what have you said "yes" because you thought it was expected of you even though it wasn't really what you wanted?

What pressures did Daniel face in Daniel, chapter 1?

How did he resist the pressure to be what others wanted him to be without being stuck up or disrespectful?

How does finding your identity in Christ enable you to shut the door on people pleasing?

page 21

Ratie

Every time I affirm my trust in God, I put a coin into God's treasury.

you

When are you most likely to turn to God? On easy days or on hard days? In the chaos of life or in the quiet?

What does equity mean?

How does "trust equity" or a "trust balance" get you through a difficult season of life?

What does it mean in Matthew 6 to store up treasure in heaven?

How might you actually do that in your daily life?

page 23

Ratie

Be who you is. If you ain't who you is, then you is who you ain't.

you

How do you identify yourself?

Do you ever wish you had a different identity or that you could be someone else? Why did you wish that?

How do you think God feels about that?

In Philippians 3, Paul lists his credentials, but then he says they aren't worth much compared to knowing Christ Jesus as Lord.

Which of your credentials (titles or qualities) is the most valuable to you?

Which would be the hardest for you to give up?

How do you see that in comparison to your relationship with Jesus?

What does it really mean "to find our identity in the Lord?"

If you did that tomorrow, what would change about your day?

page 26

Katie

View each day as an adventure planned out by God.

you

Are you adventurous?

If so, in what ways?

If not, in what ways do you wish you were more adventurous?

Do you get frustrated when things don't go as you planned?

Can you remember a time when you were thankful that something happened differently than you had planned?

What could happen in your day and in your heart if you saw these moments as surprises from God instead of interruptions to your plans?

Write down Psalm 118:24. How would your walk with God be different if you start each day with these words?

page 28

Ratie

Knowledge of the Bible is good.

you

How would you describe the Bible to someone who had never heard of it?

How would you explain your relationship with the Bible? For example, is it something you carry to church, read occasionally, or dive into? Do you see it as a list of rules, old stories, a love letter, or something else entirely?

What is your favorite book/story/teaching of the Bible?

Why is it your favorite?

What does it say to you?

What little change could you make to help you grow in your knowledge of the Bible?

page 30

Katie

W - Write the verse that stands out to you

O - Observe the key points

R - Relevant connections to your life

D - Declare what God teaches you

you

WORD is one of the Bible study methods that Katie used. You can apply it to whatever passage you are reading. Try it now. You can read the same passage Katie did here (Daniel 3:14-29) or you can read another passage of your choosing.

W -

O -

R -

D -

page 34

Ratie

Let God help me through today.

you

Do you prefer to do things alone or with another person?

What are the advantages of working alone?

What are the advantages of working in a group?

Most people do not like to feel helpless and try many ways to avoid it. How do you respond when you feel helpless?

Is there a difference between admitting helplessness to people and admitting helplessness to God?

Can trials in life really be a gift?

James 1:2-4 says to find joy in trials because they eventually produce completeness. Even if you don't fully understand or agree with this, can you think of any way that might be possible?

page 41

Ratie

There is no force in the universe as powerful as His love.

you

Remember when you first opened this journal and thought about being still ... Have you had any more experience with that or with feeling God's presence?

What do you think it will be like to see God face-to-face?

What parts of being face-to-face with God are too much for you to handle right now?

What parts can you experience now on earth?

Take this passage from Ephesians 3 and read it right now as a prayer for yourself.

I pray to the Father and ask that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen me with power through his Spirit in my inner being, so that Christ may dwell in my heart through faith. And I pray that I, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and how long and how high and how deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge - that I may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Now insert your best friend's name into it. Or your husband's name. Or your child's. Or the name of your nemesis.

Now try reading it out loud. Does hearing the words make it feel like it could really happen?

page 48

Katie

What on earth am I here for?

you

What on earth are you here for?

What are you here on earth for?

Do you think God created you for a purpose?

What are a few possibilities as to what that purpose is?

page 51

Ratie

Continue on the path with God enjoying His presence even in adversity.

you

Close your eyes for a second and picture yourself in the middle of your day.

Now picture God with you.

How do you see him with you? For example, do you imagine him beside you, holding your hand or cheering for you? Or do you envision that he is in front of you, blazing a path and leading the way?

The crazy thing is that God can be in both positions at once because he is not limited to space or time like us.

When you experience difficult circumstances, do you find it is easy to forget that God is with you?

Do you think it is possible to forget your difficult circumstances because you are focusing on God's presence with you?

page 53

Katie

Are you ok with losing EVERYTHING?

you

What is the most valuable thing in your life right now?

What is "everything" to you?

How would you feel if Jesus asked you to give that up?

Could you give it up in exchange for something else?

If so, what would that "something else" be?

What do you think it means to love God with all your heart?

What about with all your soul?

What about with all your mind?

On a scale of 0-100%, how much of your heart do you use to love God?

How about your soul?

How about your mind?

page 51

Ratie

Let others see God through you.

you

What are some of the benefits of salt?

What does Jesus mean when he says in Matthew 5:13-16 that believers are “the salt of the earth” and “the light of the world?”

How does it make you feel when you bleed?

How does it make you feel to think of “bleeding God?”

Why is it a little bit scary to truly give your life entirely to God?

Who would be impacted if God was pouring out of you?

page 59

Ratie

I am God's for all time and into eternity.

you

What do you feel as you think about the future, whether that is tomorrow, next year or 10 years from now? For example, does it make you feel uneasy, excited, apprehensive, confident, scared or something else?

What or who makes you feel safe or secure?

How does a feeling of security in your current situation change your attitude toward an uncertain future?

Read Psalm 37:23-24 and Psalm 18:30. How do these verses describe God's role in your life?

How does his role affect your feelings of security?

What is the difference between asking God to be part of what you are doing versus looking for what God is doing and choosing to be part of that?

page 62

Katie

PRAYER JOURNAL

you

T.O.M. is a prayer pattern to help you pray more specifically. You can make it TOM² (or more) if you want.

T stands for thanks.

O stands for others.

M stands for me.

Now it's your turn. Write out a TOM² prayer. And remember to be specific!

T -

T -

O -

O -

M -

M -

page 65

Ratie

God wants you to take steps of faith, even if it's scary.

you

What was the worst storm you ever experienced?

Why is a storm so scary?

In Matthew 14:22-33, Peter got out of a boat in the middle of a storm to do something he had never done before because Jesus told him to. We call it a step of faith when we do something that we don't know will work out in our favor, but we do it because we believe God wants us to do.

Have you ever taken a step of faith like that?

How does a step of faith compare to a storm?

Is it equally scary or is one more daunting than the other?

Does a "storm" in your life push you out of the boat to take a step of faith or does it keep you in the boat where it feels safer?

What was the key factor in Peter's success versus failure as he walked on water?

How does that same focal point apply in your steps of faith?

page 67

Ratie

Learn to live above circumstances.

you

What do you think it means to "live above your circumstances?"

When your circumstances include problems or trouble, are you more likely to live "in" them or "above" them?

How do you get "above" something hard like that?

In John 16:33, Jesus says trouble and distress are part of this world. What is your first reaction to that?

Then Jesus says he can give you peace in the midst of the trouble. Think about that for a minute.

Do you really believe that is possible?

If so, what would it look like in your day?

What steps could you take toward that peace?

page 12

Katie

One purpose: to reflect the image of God.

you

Think about yourself and two friends.

How are you alike?

How are you different?

How do you respond to the idea that we are all created for different purposes but, ultimately, for the same purpose of reflecting the image of God?

How does this one purpose look differently in different lives?

Read Colossians 1:15. If Jesus is the image of God and we can be renewed into the same image, we can literally be the way people see God. Think about that for a minute.

Based on your interactions today (or yesterday), what do people think Jesus is like?

If reflecting the image of God becomes your purpose for tomorrow, how will your interactions be different?

page 78

Ratie

Let God's light shine in me.

you

What is the darkest place you have ever been in physically? For example, when the electricity goes out suddenly or camping at night or in a cave?

What was that like?

How did you navigate your way around?

How long did you stay in the darkness?

How did you get to a place of light?

What is the darkest place you have ever been in spiritually or emotionally?

What was that like?

How did you navigate your way around?

How long did you stay in the darkness?

How did you get to a place of light?

page 81

Katie

We are two teenage girls helping other teens just like yourself in their spiritual journey.

you

Who helps you along in your own spiritual journey?

How can other people help you grow in your own relationship with God?

Read Matthew 28:19. What is a disciple?

How do you become a disciple?

How do you disciple others?

How do you do both at the same time?

What are the thorns in your life right now?

What are the roses?

Which ones are you focusing on?

page 84

Ratie

SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD

you

What do you manage or control in your daily life?

What does it mean to be sovereign?

Over what areas of your life do you act as if you are sovereign?

When you think about God being sovereign, what conflict rises up in your thoughts? For example, if God is sovereign, then why does _____ happen?

How do you feel when you close your eyes and imagine God being sovereign over that situation? Perhaps anxious, grateful, angry, frustrated, excited, sad, disappointed, at peace, curious?

If you knew the purpose behind something that doesn't feel "good" to you, would it be easier to trust God's sovereignty in it?

How can you move toward trusting him even when you don't understand?

page 81

Katie

YOU ARE GOD'S WORKMANSHIP!

you

What words would someone else use to describe you?

What words would you use to describe yourself?

What words does God use to describe you?

page 90

Ratie

focus on God

you

What tends to occupy a lot of your mind-space?

What thoughts does your mind often wander toward?

Are you happy with that or is that something you want to change?

Do you believe it is possible to choose the focal point of your mind?

Read 2 Corinthians 10:5. How do you bring a thought captive?

Your thoughts drive your emotions and your emotions drive your reactions.

How is this true in your current thoughts, emotions and reactions?

What could happen if your thoughts shifted toward God?

page 93

Katie

Our universe SPEAKS of God.

you

Open your Bible and read all the verses Katie lists in this passage.

Psalms 19:1

Isaiah 40:18

Psalms 90:2

Job 36:26

Romans 16:26

Psalms 74:16

Isaiah 6:3

Isaiah 46:9

Romans 8:31

Which one stands out to you and why?

After reflecting on these verses, how do you feel about God?

What is it like to have a relationship with the God described here?

If you believe that the God of these verses also loves you and is for you, how does that change the way you look at your fears, struggles, and pain?

page 96

Ratie

We need something to keep us going. Look to the banner!

you

When have you felt like giving up?

What did you do?

Did someone encourage you to keep going?

Who was it and how did they encourage you?

When have you helped someone else to keep going?

In what ways can we, as humans, give each other strength?

In what ways can God give us strength?

Why do we need both?

page 99

Ratie

Rejoice when it makes no sense.

you

To rejoice is to feel great delight. In what do you find great delight?

What is not enjoyable to you?

Read Philippians 4:4. When something is difficult or uncomfortable or disgusting, how is it possible to rejoice in that?

And why are we instructed to do so?

What is the difference between pretending to be "fine" in the midst of a difficult season and rejoicing "one square inch at a time?"

page 103

Ratie

"When you hope, be joyful. When you suffer, be patient. When you pray, be faithful."

you

What are you waiting for?

What are you hoping for?

While you wait and hope, are you finding joy or worry?

While you wait, are you becoming like Christ or like the world?

Why do you try so hard to avoid suffering?

How is patience beneficial when you are suffering?

What obstacles prevent you from praying?

What could help you overcome those?

How could those obstacles be helpful in building your faith?

page 101

Katie

When you give the gift of being real, you help others see Jesus more clearly and bring comfort and joy.

you

Consider reading through the story of The Velveteen Rabbit.

How is the wear and tear on the rabbit's body ugly?

How is it beautiful?

Why is it so hard to show others the ugly and broken parts of your life?

What harm could come from displaying those?

What good could come from it?

How could someone possibly see Jesus when they look at your broken pieces?

page 110

Ratie

Sometimes the things we think are best aren't what God thinks are best.

you

What is a prayer you prayed that God answered exactly like you wanted?

What is a prayer you prayed that he did not answer how you wanted?

What have you asked God for that he did not give you?

What did that feel like when it happened?

If time has passed, how does it feel now?

Can you reflect on that and see how God had a different purpose for it?

Has God ever done something in your life or through your life that you never dreamed possible?

page 112

Ratie

The way we talk to ourselves matters.

you

When has someone said something to you that was very hurtful?

When have you said something to another person that was hurtful?

How do you talk to others - in ways that tear down or in ways that give life?

How do you talk to yourself?

How can the way you talk to yourself provide protection?

How can speaking words of Scripture be a weapon against the enemy of your soul?

What verse can be life-giving words to speak to yourself in days to come?

page 114

Ratie

I AM THE TRUE VINE

REMAIN IN JESUS

you

What does the branch of a grapevine need in order to grow fruit?

What is pruning and how it is helpful?

What is the difference between the gardener's perspective of the pruning process and the branch's perspective?

What does it mean for a branch to remain in the vine?

What does it mean for you to remain in Jesus?

How do friends help in the process of "remaining?"

What does a life-giving friendship look like?

Who are the life-giving people in your life?

page 118

Ratie

He will NEVER leave me!

you

When have you asked God, "WHY?"

What other questions did you ask God at that time?

Think back to a time in your past when you knew God was with you.

What was the situation?

How did you know God was for you during that time?

If God is the same yesterday, today and forever, how does that affect your view of God in your trials?

What about in the uncertainty of your future?

What is the difference between knowing something and feeling something?

Which is more reliable?

How can you lean on what you know about God and not on what you feel at a certain point in time?

page 120

Ratie

Don't let love and truth ever leave you.

you

Read through Proverbs 3 and 4. What verse stands out to you?

Why?

How might this verse change the way you approach your life?

Why do we want so badly to understand?

What is it like to trust without understanding?

In what situations is it important to look straight ahead (for example, driving a car)?

What happens when you look in other directions?

How does that same idea apply to hard seasons of life?

page 124

Ratie

Trust God in the midst of the storm

you

What is it about a storm that makes you feel out of control?

Why might God want you to experience the middle of a "storm" in your life?

Is it easy or difficult for you to need other people?

Is it easy or difficult for you to need God?

Why would God want to take you to a place where you need him more?

Who are the people in your life who fortify your faith?

Read all of Psalm 13. What do you think is happening to David that led him to write this?

What is he feeling?

What is his response?

What do think about his ability to balance his feelings with his response?

page 128

Ratie

It's all part of God's plan.

you

Are you spontaneous or do you like to plan ahead?

How do you respond when things don't go as you planned?

In what ways might God's plans be different from your plans?

How does that make you feel?

How could God's plans actually be better than your plans?

How does knowing God's Word help you to know your purpose?

page 131

Ratie

Am I now trying to get people to think well of me?

you

How do you want your peers and others to know and remember you?

Do your interactions and social media posts align with this want?

What do you think it means to be a people-pleaser?

Most people struggle with this to some degree. In what ways are you most susceptible to focusing on pleasing other people?

Read Galatians 1:10. What do you think it means to be a God-pleaser?

How does pleasing people sometimes interfere with pleasing God?

In what ways would your daily interactions be different if you were more concerned with what God thinks than what other people think?

page 135

Ratie

I worry they miss out on the real me.

you

What are you afraid people see when they look at you?

What's the best thing you got from your parents?

If you could have a never-ending candle that smelled like anything you wanted, what fragrance would you want it to be?

What do you like most about your family?

What small gesture from a stranger made a big impact on you?

Where would you spend all your time if you could?

What do you take for granted?

If all jobs had the same pay and hours, what job would you like to have?

What's worth spending more on to get the best?

What takes up too much of your time?

What is the most annoying question that people ask you?

page 140

Ratie

There is a higher purpose for the pain.

you

Can you identify a situation in your life that felt like junk... trash... pain... or maybe even evil?

When you imagine God using that for a purpose in your life or someone else's, how does that make you feel? Perhaps angry, encouraged, frustrated, hopeful, hurt, incredulous?

Read Genesis 50:20. Have you ever observed something that seemed "bad" turn out to be "good" in some way?

How do you respond to the idea that God doesn't waste hard times in our lives?

Why is the support of other people important during a season of suffering?

In what ways might both the support person and the supported person benefit from being in community together?

page 143

Ratie

The world around me seems to spin faster and faster til everything's a blur.

you

What was a time or situation in your life when so much was happening around you that it made your insides feel chaotic?

How did you try to help yourself find a sense of calm during that season?

Read Galatians 5:22-23. In what ways do you depend on people and the world around you to grow these attributes?

In what ways do you depend on God to grow these fruits?

How is relying on God different than relying on yourself or others?

How does acknowledging your weaknesses actually help you to grow?

page 145

Ratie

The more you are in a continual state of ASSISTANCE from God and others, the STRONGER you will be.

you

What does your daily time to connect with God look like?

Who is on your support team?

Are they doing life with you, helping you and allowing you to help them?

What current relationships can you cultivate?

What new relationships can you begin?

Do you ask questions?

Do you listen to responses?

How do you love?

page 148

Ratie

the Christian life is like a race

you

If the Christian life is like a race, how is your race going?

Read 1 Corinthians 9:24. Not comparing yourself to others, but rather comparing yourself to your own potential, are you running for a prize or simply as a participant?

In your life past or present, what does not seem worth the effort?

How could Jesus possibly be the prize in your situation?

Imagine that your future self could send a message back to your current self, saying, "It was worth it."

How could that change your attitude?

page 150

Katie

Everything was fine and normal until one day.

you

What one day in your life changed your "fine and normal" forever?

Did it seem like God left you during that time?

Why did it feel like that?

What can you do to remind yourself that God does not leave you?

Imagine the difference between seeing only a speck of paint versus seeing the whole picture.

How does that difference in perspective change the painter's work?

page 153

Ratie

While we were STILL SINNERS.

you

Think of something that you hate.

Would you be willing to cover your child in that thing in order to rescue someone you loved?

Would you be willing to cover someone you love in that thing in order to rescue someone who had mistreated you in some way?

Read Romans 5:8 and let the meaning of that verse sink into your soul.

In Philippians 2, Paul says we should take on the mindset of Christ in our relationships.

What do you think that means?

What would it look like in your life to not take advantage of your status but, instead, to be humble and to be a servant?

page 155

Katie

Community is overwhelming at times, but where would I be without it?

you

Describe your physical community.

Describe your spiritual community.

How are these alike?

How are they different?

Do you find community to be warm and comforting? Or suffocating and overwhelming?

Read Hebrews 10:24-25. Why is community important?

page 158

Katie

Be transformed by the truth that God lives within me.

you

Read 1 Corinthians 6:19. Do you believe that God lives within you?

If so, what does he say to you?

Does he speak truth or lies?

Is his voice louder than the voices in your head or those of other people?

How do you give your attention to the voice of God?

If God lives in you, his light can shine through you. Do you think others see God when they observe the way you live and interact?

What little changes could you make to allow his light to shine brighter in you?

page 166

Ratie

What I have gone through is no mistake. It is a part of my story.

you

Have you ever shared the story of your life with anyone?

One way to summarize your story is to consider the significant events of your life and how each impacted you. Were they positive, negative, or neutral?

What are the moments of your life that define who you are today?

Who are the people who influenced you?

Take some time to write out your story and consider sharing it with a close friend.

What you have gone through is no mistake. It is part of your story.

page 168

Ratie

In the future when I give my testimony, I want to be able to say that this was the year my faith grew stronger than ever before.

you

How do you define the word faith?

What does faith look like in your life?

Is your faith more about what you do externally or what you experience internally?

In what ways would you like to see your faith grow?

What steps can you take toward a stronger faith?

How does your faith affect other aspects of your life (e.g. relationships, emotions, mental focus, physical health)?

page 173

Ratie

Thank God for each blessing along the way—this brings joy to both me and God.

you

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:18. Do the words “thank you” roll off your tongue often or do you use them only sporadically?

In what ways can a grateful heart be protective?

How is thankfulness a path into God’s presence?

Take time to be intentionally grateful. Set aside 5 minutes at the beginning or end of each day to write down 3-5 things for which you are grateful. Start now!

page 176

Ratie

Well, hello beautiful!

you

Do you struggle with self-image?

In what ways do you compare yourself to others?

What does the world see as beautiful?

What does God see as beautiful?

Why are those different?

Read Psalm 139:13-14. What does God say about you?

How can focusing on God's image of you change your image of yourself?

page 180

Ratie

Strive to trust God in all areas of your life.

you

What makes you anxious?

What is difficult for you?

How could these things possibly help you to grow in some way?

Take a minute to consider trust in God as a staff that bears your weight as you walk. What stands out to you about this idea?

How does this picture enable you to move forward rather than stay stuck in your fear, worry, regrets, trials?

Read Proverbs 3:5-6. How are trusting and understanding different?

Why are we instructed to do one and to not attempt the other?

page 184

Ratie

I am a huge influence in the lives of those around me.

you

Do you tend to think of yourself as one who has influence?

Who might you be influencing and in what ways?

Consider 3 relationships in your life.

What do you want those relationships to be like in 5 years?

What steps can you take now to walk toward that goal?

Each of these are important in our relationships but which stands out as an area in which you could intentionally develop and grow?

Celebrate the milestones.

Fight for the HEART ♡

Invest in the relationship.

Spend quality, unstructured time.

Leave no doubt that they are loved.

page 188

Ratie

He is not done with me yet, the Author is still perfecting His story.

you

Listen to the song, *King of My Heart*, by Kutless.

What does it mean that God is good?

This song says that God will never let you down, and Deuteronomy 31:6 says that he will never leave you.

Have you ever felt like God has let you down?

When you feel like God has let you down, how do you reconcile what you feel with what is truth?

If you believe that God is holding on to you, how does that change the way you live your story?

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Ratie

Hope is oxygen to the believer who is short of breath.

you

How do you define hope?

Biblical hope is a confident expectation in God's promises or in God himself.

How is this kind of hope similar to oxygen or a life preserver?

In what ways might trouble lead to patience and patience lead to character and character lead to hope?

Have you ever seen this progression in another person or experienced this yourself?

Read 1 Corinthians 15:42-44. How can these verses renew a hope for something good to come?

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Katie

Seek Him and I will find more than ever dreamed possible.

you

Are you searching for God? Or, perhaps, are you searching for more of God?

What do you hope to find through your quest?

How do you describe God's presence in your life?

What does it mean to have God as your goal?

Given that everyone has school, careers and other endeavors, how do you keep God as the primary pursuit of your life?

page 205

Katie

Instead of being short-sighted, you need to have ETERNAL PERSPECTIVE.

you

What does it mean to be short-sighted?

How does being short-sighted lead to being selfish?

Read Colossian 3:1-2. What is the difference between an earthly perspective and an eternal perspective?

Why is an eternal perspective better?

How can you have an eternal perspective in the normal, mundane parts of your day?

page 208

Ratie

There is a greater purpose to this.

you

In reflecting on the journey of your life, would you say you have had more highs or lows or moments in between?

What have you learned from the different parts of your journey?

In what ways are you different from who you used to be?

What if the place God wants you to be in life and the place you want to be in life are completely different?

What if God's purpose for your life is not the same as your purpose for your life?

How do you respond to those possibilities?